

Message

From: Fondahl, Lauren [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=8FCC41D8B83844B3B5483FE20B153452-LFONDAHL]
Sent: 10/24/2018 11:00:31 PM
To: lwidmer@csu.fullerton.edu
CC: Gonzales, Johnny@Waterboards [Johnny.Gonzales@waterboards.ca.gov]
Subject: RE: CA biosolids info
Attachments: CA use&disp102418.xlsx

Hi Lory,

Johnny Gonzales forwarded your message to me for response.

Attached is a chart of POTWs and other biosolids facilities showing how much they produced in calendar year 2017 (expressed in dry metric tons for the calendar year, 100% dry weight basis), sorted by county, for counties in CA, NV, and HI. However I only get reports from major WWTPs (those with design flows of over 1 mgd, and the only major facilities in Mendocino are Ukiah and Willits. Ukiah is not in the 2017 database as they did not submit an electronic report for 2017 using EPA's new reporting system; however they produce about 300 dry metric tons/year and always send it to a landfill. Willits reported sending theirs to a landfill in 2017 as well.

The vast majority of WWTPs in California treat their biosolids to Class B pathogen reduction levels, then many of them send the biosolids on to a regional composter that treats the biosolids to Class A. Humboldt County is unique in that they have two WWTPs (Arcata and Fortuna) that compost the biosolids to Class A on-site.

I'm not aware of any minor WWTPs in Mendocino or Humboldt County that treat their biosolids to Class A. They would probably need to achieve this by high temperature composting, as other Class A treatment methods would be very expensive for small WWTPs.

The columns in the attached chart show the tonnage that the WWTP or regional compost operation (or other regional Class A facility) prepared, and how much was land applied as Class B or Class A, how much was transferred to a regional facility for further treatment, how much was surface-disposed on site (Novato and Las Gallinas in Marin County use this option), how much was landfilled or used as ADC, incinerated, or placed in temporary storage.

Let me know if you have questions on the chart. Sorry I don't have data for minor WWTPs in Mendocino or Humboldt Counties.

Lauren

Lauren Fondahl
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From: Gonzales, Johnny@Waterboards [mailto:Johnny.Gonzales@waterboards.ca.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 24, 2018 3:19 PM
To: Fondahl, Lauren <Fondahl.Lauren@epa.gov>

Cc: Gonzales, Johnny@Waterboards <Johnny.Gonzales@waterboards.ca.gov>

Subject: Fw: CA biosolids info

Hello Lauren.

Would you please reply to the note below.

thanks,

johnny g.

From: Lory Widmer <lwidmer@csu.fullerton.edu>

Sent: Friday, October 19, 2018 12:29 PM

To: Gonzales, Johnny@Waterboards

Subject: CA biosolids info

Hello Johnny,

I left you a voicemail message this morning and am following up via email. I'd welcome a response via email or phone, whichever you prefer.

I'm an online graduate student in Environmental Engineering at CSU Fullerton, and I'm doing research on biosolids management at wastewater treatment plants in northern California.(specifically Mendocino County where I live). My focus is on the challenges/barriers that small WWTPs face in producing biosolids for land application. I'm looking for publicly available information and have found some information through NPDES permits and the North Coast Regional Water Board's online database (CIWQS). I've been able to find basic information for most plants, such as annual biosolids production and sometimes where they send their biosolids if they report this in their annual report. I've found that the level of detail provided in the annual reports varies considerably from plant to plant.

One thing that I've found difficult to track down is whether the WWTPs are producing Class A or Class B biosolids. Some plants mention this in their annual reports. Also, I'd like to find out if there are sites in Mendocino County that are currently land applying biosolids. Can that information be found somewhere online via an EPA or water board website? I have read that the City of Mendocino is producing Class A biosolids (EQ, no less) but they're sending it to a landfill in Novato. Fort Bragg is sending their's to Novato as well (but I'm not sure if it's Class A or Class B). It looks like some sites used to land apply. Georgia Pacific used to take Mendocino's until they closed and H-H ranch used to take Fort Bragg's until 2001. I know Ukiah sends their Class B biosolids to a landfill. I'm also going to be looking at Humboldt County WWTPs for comparison. Again, I'd like to find out if there are sites that are permitted to land apply.

Does the EPA has any available databases/information with California biosolids data since they have primacy over CA, or is all the information on biosolids routed through the State and Regional Water Boards?

Any information you can provide on the above would be a great help. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Best regards,

Lory Widmer, PE
Ukiah, CA
530-902-8899